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Applicant(s):

SHOWA RUBBER

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## Concise Summary of Relevant Portions of JP51-90376:

This invention relates to a method for manufacturing non-rigid tennis balls that includes a method for manufacturing a hollow sphere body by bonding unvulcanized hemispherical rubbers. The method involves using a pair of moulds that comprise vacuum halls on the hemispherical surfaces, wherein the inner surface of the hemispheres has a hemispherical shape. The method further involves providing an unvulcanized rubber sheet that has a determined thickness, the shape of which has 3, 4 or 5 half-ship shaped portions, with the ship-edges being bonded in advance to make an approximately hemispherical shape, after which, the change ratio for becoming a sphere is extremely low when vacuuming the air in figuration moulds. The approximate hemispheres are vacuumed by vacuum halls 7, 8 and adhered to the inner sphere surface of lower figuration metal moulds 3, 4, after which, margins of the outside rubber of the sphere are folded toward the external side of pressing and bonding edges 5, 6. After this: an inflator is injected into the sphere; vacuuming is stopped; upper and lower metal moulds are pressed and bonded; and hemispheres are bonded at the pressing and bonding edges 5, 6 to finish the preparation of tennis ball.